

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 614  
By Sargent

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Steve and Denise Smith, Marty Warren, and All American Ritz on winning the World Grand Championship, Yearling Class, at the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly honor and commend those persons who bring great acclaim and national recognition to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Steve and Denise Smith and Marty Warren are such worthy individuals, who recently captured the World Grand Championship, Yearling Class, at the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration, thanks to the superior performance of their horse, All American Ritz; and

WHEREAS, owned by Denise Smith, All American Ritz was raised at Ravenswood Farm in Brentwood, like his mother and grandmother; among the numerous awards he has already won are: Yearling Colt Champion at the Spring Fun Show, Money Tree Classic, Bethesda's Star Spangled Horse Show, Second Place in the National Breeders' Futurity Yearling Colts Class,

Walking Horse Colt of the Year, and most recently, the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Tennessee Walking Horse World Grand Champion, Yearling Class; and

WHEREAS, Ravenswood Farm is a three-generation family of exhibitors beginning with Reese Smith, Jr., and continuing with his son, Steve, and grandsons, Stephen and Matthew; and

WHEREAS, Steve Smith, his wife, Denise, and their sons, Stephen, Jr. and Matthew, have won many awards and reside in Brentwood on Ravenswood Farm, where they carry on the family tradition of breeding Walking Horses; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Steve Smith exhibited and won at ten World Championships from 1985 to 1993, won Reserve World Champion honors eleven times, and owned and started Hallelujah's Power Pac, Coins Hard Cash, Nationwide Pride, and Miracle at the Rita; in 1992, he retired the Amateur Mare Trophy with three consecutive wins on Miss Walking Miracle; and

WHEREAS, actively involved within the sport, Steve Smith has been a Chairman of the National Horse Show Commission, a member of the Advisory Board of the Walking Horse National Celebration, and was a two-time President of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being the youngest President of the Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association, Steve Smith was responsible for opening all its records to the public; holding the first modern-day membership drive that increased membership to 20,000; reviving the Breeders' Political Action Committee to the point at which it became one of the top ten private political action committees in the United States; leading the first delegation to meet with the Secretary of Agriculture, Ed Madigan; hiring the first and only state lobbyist; hiring the first Pleasure Horse Coordinator; leading the Association to exhibit at Equitana USA in Essen, Germany; starting educational and informational seminars at the Association's annual meeting; conceiving the idea of self-regulation in the industry; responsible for the Nashville Metro Police riding Tennessee Walking Horses; he is also a member of the Celebration's Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Marty Warren has worked as farm manager of Ravenswood Farm for Steve Smith since 1992; he became interested in Walking Horses while working for Harlindale Farms in Franklin in 1988; and

WHEREAS, while farm manager at Ravenswood, Mr. Warren has been responsible for the development, breeding, and raising of colts; in 1993, he represented the Tennessee Walking Horse Association in Essen, Germany, where he exhibited a Tennessee Walking Horse nightly for nine days; and

WHEREAS, Marty Warren and his wife, Stephanie Eckstein Warren, are the proud parents of Andrew and Allison Warren; an avid hunter, Marty Warren is actively involved in political, community, and church organizations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Steve and Denise Smith, Marty Warren, and All American Ritz on winning the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration World Grand Championship, Yearling Class, and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.